



# IMPACT Another PSC Success Story

## PECO Transformer Fire — Utility EMP

### Transformer Blaze Response Reveals Strength Under Fire

It's often said that character is revealed under pressure. Nowhere is this more evident than in how a company responds to a major emergency.

The PECO Gas & Electric Co. transformer fire and spill of December 2011 is proof positive. At approximately 3:00 p.m. on a Sunday, a catastrophic failure at an electrical substation in Glenn Mills, Pennsylvania, caused a fire that resulted in the spill of some 30,000 gallons of transformer oil. Not only did this oil catch fire, which endangered the rest of the substation, but the site sits adjacent to an environmentally sensitive piece of state land that could have suffered severe long-term damage had the burning oil reached its boundaries.

Fortunately for PECO, the Philadelphia-based utility owned by Exelon, it had a service agreement with PSC dating all the way back to 2000. By 5:30 p.m., PSC had spill crews and equipment, including three vacuum tankers, five frac tanks and thirty 20-yard roll-offs, at the transformer site. While local fire crews got the actual blaze under control, PSC personnel quickly dug a trench around the facility to capture flowing oil and prevent its further spread while the three PSC vacuum tankers immediately began the work of collecting the spilled transformer oil.

By noon the following day, a total of nine PSC vacuum tankers and 18-20 PSC personnel were involved in the clean-up effort. Their progress

was hampered by two back-to-back storms that together dumped two inches of rain that mixed with the spillage, producing 40,000 to 45,000 additional gallons of oil/water mixture.

The actual transformer fire was not thoroughly extinguished until 5 days after it started. PSC's clean-up efforts continued for nearly a week. By that point, PSC's experts had cleaned the site thoroughly, leaving no residual oil at the site and completely removing any contaminated soil from the substation's perimeter. The state land adjacent to the substation weathered the spill completely untouched.

PECO later expressed complete satisfaction with PSC's responsiveness and thoroughness. Because of

PSC's ability to quickly muster men and materials in an outlying location within just a few hours, damage from the oil spill was confined and environmentally sensitive lands nearby were protected.

*"PSC worked seamlessly and incident-free in high-traffic work force areas and severe inclement weather to provide customized solutions to contain oil and oil/water runoff without impacting the site and provided specific equipment as needed to assist with firefighting practices such as an additional water truck and vacuum trucks."*

Neil Kratzinger  
Environmental Coordinator

**For expert environmental emergency response, look to the experts at PSC.**



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